

VIA E-FILE

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 13768.208.1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
)
	William Yanwah Lai, et al.)
)
Serial No.:	09/997,368) Art Unit
) 3627
Filed:	November 30, 2001)
)
Conf. No.:	3496)
)
For:	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SENDING COORDINATED NOTIFICATIONS)
)
Examiner:	Andrew J. Rudy)
)
Customer No.:	047973)

AMENDMENT "C"

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action of February 21, 2006 (paper no. 20060215), please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a system where a user performs a transaction with multiple entities, and wherein ~~one or more of the multiple entities generates a notifications~~ that updates a status of the transaction for the user, wherein the method is for coordinating the notifications that are generated by ~~one or more of the multiple entities~~ and sent to the user, the method comprising:

providing a notification interface, wherein the notification interface provides a standardized application programming interface (API) for each of the multiple entities to send notifications to a user, wherein the notification interface is enabled to send notifications to a user from multiple entities involved in a particular transaction with the user, and wherein each of the ~~one or more~~ multiple entities that generates a notification corresponding to the transaction is enabled to communicate with the notification interface in order to send notifications to a user corresponding with the particular transaction and in a coordinated manner;

receiving, at the notification interface, ~~one or more~~ notifications sent from ~~at least one of the multiple entities~~, the ~~one or more~~ notifications corresponding to the particular transaction, wherein each of the ~~one or more~~ notifications comprises an identifier that enables the notification interface to uniquely identify the user and includes data identifying the particular transaction;

identifying the user from the identifier such that each notification may be sent to the user; and

the notification interface sending the ~~one or more~~ notifications to a router, wherein the router upon receiving the ~~one or more~~ notifications determines how to deliver the ~~one or more~~ notifications to the user by consulting preferences set by the user and by selecting from a plurality of different delivery methods specified by the user preferences as available for delivering notifications to the user, and such that each of the ~~one or more~~ notifications corresponding to the particular transaction with the user are ultimately ~~delivered~~ sent to the user in a coordinated manner.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the ~~act of providing a notification interface further comprises an act of providing the multiple entities with access to an application programming interface of the notification interface~~API is a common interface through which each of the multiple entities transmit their notifications.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving notifications from each of the multiple entities that generated a notification at the notification interface further comprises an act of authenticating each of the multiple entities that sends a notification to the notification interface.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, by at least one of the multiple entities, the identifier from the user; and
accessing the at least one of the multiple entities using an authentication service that authenticates the user.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the notification comprises one or more of:

- an identifier field that contains one of a user identifier or a subscription identifier;
- a content field that contains a status of the transaction;
- an action field that contains an object, wherein the object is a URL;
- a priority field indicating a priority of the notification;
- a category field indicating a category of the notification; and
- an authenticate field that allows a sender of the notification to be authenticated.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 5, further comprising determining how to deliver the notifications to the user by consulting preferences set by the user and one or more of:

- ~~user preferences,~~ user devices, presence information of the user, the priority field of the notification, and or the category field of the notification.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 6, wherein the act of sending the notifications to the user further comprises an act of identifying the user from the user identifier or the subscription identifier.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 7, further comprising delivering, by the router, the notifications to the user.

9-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the notification includes:

content that updates the user about the transaction; and

wherein the method further includes:

sending each notification to the user according to the determined delivery method determined by the router.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 15, further comprising an act of the notification interface identifying the user from the authentication service using the user identifier.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 15, further comprising an act of the router identifying the user from the authentication service using the user identifier.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 15, wherein the act of consulting, by the router, ~~one or more of user preferences set by the user, user status, and user preferences~~ further comprises an act of the router consulting the category and the priority included in the notification to determine a delivery method of the notification.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the notification further comprises:

- a category and a priority of the transaction;
- an action field that permits the user to take an action regarding the transaction;
- and
- an authenticate field that enables the notification interface to authenticate the entity that generated the notification.

21-34. (Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more~~ notifications includes a plurality of notifications, each of the plurality of notifications being received from a different one of the multiple entities.

36. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~35~~1, wherein the ~~plurality of~~ notifications are standardized by the API prior to being sent to the user.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 35, wherein the method further includes at least one of the multiple entities passing the identifier to at least one additional entity of the multiple entities, prior to the at least one additional entity sending a notification to the notification interface.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the router determines which of a plurality of user devices to send the notifications to, the plurality of user devices including at least one of a desktop computer, cellular telephone, pager, personal digital assistant, internet terminal, or facsimile.

39. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~one or more~~ notifications are a plurality of notifications that cover the transaction from beginning to end in a coordinated fashion.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the same identifier is used by each of the one or more multiple entities.

41. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each notification comprises each of:

- an identifier field containing at least one of a user identifier or a subscription identifier;

- a content field containing a status of the particular transaction from one or more of the multiple entities;

- an action field containing an object enabling the user to take further action regarding the particular transaction;

- a priority field indicating the importance of the notification;

- a category field indicating the type of transaction; and

- an authenticate field for authenticating an entity that sends or generates the notification.

42. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the preferences are inferentially set by the user.